

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINT MILI RO

SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU RESHUFFLES ROMANIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL

1. PRESIDENTIAL DECREE DATECD APRIL 29 (RECEIVED MAY 9 AT EMBASSY IN GOR OFFICIAL BULLETIN) EFFECTS MAJOR PERSONNEL RESHUFFLE OF ROMANIAN DEFENSE COUNCIL.

2. FIVE DROPPED FROM COUNCIL ARE EX-PRIME MINISTER ION GHEORGHE MAURER, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS GHEORGHE RADULESCU AND PAUL NICULESCU-MIZIL, AND NEW BRASOV COUNTY FIRST SECRETARY VIRGIL TROFIN (ALL FOUR
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ARE MEMBERS OF OLD PARTY PRESIDIU ABOLISHED AT MARCH

PLENUM), AND MIHAI MARINESCU, FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COUNCIL OF WORKERS CONTROL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

3. FIVE ADDED ARE EMIL DRAGANESCU, VICE CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CHAIRMAN, STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE, STEFAN ANDREI, PARTY SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS; GHEORGHE OPREA, DE FACTO FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (FIRST (?) VICE-CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS); LT. GEN ION COMAN, PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECTION CHIEF FOR MILITARY-SECURITY AFFAIRS; AND BRIG. GEN. CONSTANTIN OPRITA, DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER AND SECRETARY, HIGHER POLITICAL COUNCIL, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

4. DEFENSE COUNCIL IS LISTED AS NOW CONSISTING OF FOLLOWING 12 (BESIDES CEAUSESCU, WHOSE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DC IS STATUTORY): (1) EMIL BODNARAS, MEMBER, PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VICE-PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF STATE; (2) MANEA MANESCU, MEMBER, PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS; (3) DRAGANESCU; (4) GHEORGHE PANA, MEMBER, PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PARTY SECRETARY; (5) ILIE VERDET, MEMBER, PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PARTY SECRETARY AND CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COUNCIL OF WORKERS CONTROL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES; (6) GEN. ION IONITA, CANDIDATE MEMBER, PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE; (7) ANDREI; (8) OPREA; (9) EMIL BOBU, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR; (10) GHEORGE MACOVESCU, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER; (11) COMAN; (12) OPRITA. LT. GEN ION GHEORGHE, FIRST DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER AND CHIEF OF STAFF, IS LISTED AS DEFENSE COUNCIL'S SECRETARY.

5. COMMENT. THE RESHUFFLE, WHICH GENERALLY MIRRORS MARCH'S POLITICAL READJUSTMENT, REMOVES FROM THE DEFENSE COUNCIL FOUR OF NINE MEMBERS OF THE NOW DEFUNCT PARTY PRESIDIU, THREE OF WHOM -- THE RETIRED MAURER, NICULESCU-MIZIL, AND TROFIN -- HAVE BEEN IN OBVIOUS POLITICAL DECLINE. REMOVAL OF THE FOURTH, RADULESCU, MAY INDICATE A WEAKENING IN HIS POSITION ALSO. ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE MORE INDEPENDENT SENIOR FIGURES IN THE GOR LEADERSHIP, HE HAS ON OCCASION BEEN RUMORED TO HAVE OPPOSED CERTAIN CEAUSESCU-FAVORED DOMESTIC MEASURES, E.G., THE CONTROVERSIAL 1973 PRIVATE HOUSING LAW, AND SEVERAL TIMES DURING PAST FEW YEARS HE HAS -- ALONG WITH TROFIN AND MIZIL -- BEEN SEEN OUT OF ALPHABETICAL RANK IN THE THEN PRESIDIU PECKING ORDER. HOWEVER, ANY POSSIBLE DIFFERENCES HAVE ALMOST SURELY HAD TO DO WITH DOMESTIC

ISSUES, AND RADULESCU, REPORTEDLY INCLUDED IN NEW PERMANENT BUREAU, STILL RETAINS HIS JOB AS ROMANIA'S HIGHEST POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CEMA, AT A TIME WHEN IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE GOR'S STRESSFUL POSITION THERE NOT BE CLOUDED. DISMISSAL OF MARINESCU, A DEFENSE COUNCIL HOLDOVER FROM ITS INCEPTION IN 1969 WHEN HE WAS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VICE-CHAIRMAN, APPARENTLY MERELY CLEARS UP LAME DUCK CASE.

6. NEW DEFENSE COUNCIL (DC) ADDITIONS DRAGANESCU AND ANDREI ARE BY ALL ACCOUNTS MEMBERS OF NEW PERMANENT BUREAU, THE PRECISE MAKEUP OF WHICH HAS YET TO BE OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED. AS STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHIEF, DRAGANESCU RATES A DC SEAT BY STATUTE, WHILE ANDREI, AS PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY, FILLS A CHAIR WHICH AT DC'S BEGINNING WAS MIZIL'S. OPREA MAY RATE A DC SLOT EITHER AS A LEADING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS VICE-CHAIRMAN OR AS SUPERVISOR OF THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OR BOTH. ADDITION OF LT. GEN. COMAN AND BRIG. GEN. OPRITA, ALONG WITH STATUTORY MEMBERS IONITA AND DC SECRETARY GHEORGHE, GIVES MILITARY LARGEST REPRESENTATION SINCE DC WAS FOUNDED. (MILITARY RANKS SHOWN ARE US EQUIVALENTS.)
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